

## Peninsula Beacon

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### News

# Camp Nimitz Compromise Favors Safety Academy

By Melanie Nickel  
The Beacon

What should be done with the Camp Nimitz portion of the Naval Training Center (NTC)? The hotly debated question has focused in recent weeks on competing pro-

posals to expand the airport or build a regional "public safety academy." A compromise plan, proposed by City Councilman Byron Wear and narrowly approved by the NTC Closure Committee at its April 24 meeting, would allocate most of the proper-

ty to the public safety academy, while allowing eight additional arrival and departure gates at the airport.

The Port of San Diego wants to add the additional eight gates to its new concourse, which will be built at the western edge of the airport within the next few years. The Port also wants space for overnight airplane parking, rental car and airport employee parking, and airport support operations such as repair shops and catering.

Police and fire officials want the area developed into a regional public safety academy for training police officers, fire fighters, life guards, dispatchers, prison guards and other public safety workers. The training facility would use existing facilities such as a fire simulator, an indoor pistol range and classrooms and add new features such as a driving course and a "tactical village."

The committee considered both proposals and also three compromise plans which would divide the property between the two uses. The plan they approved, which was moved by Wear and seconded by Peninsula Community Planning Board representative

Wayne Rafflesberger, would give the Port just enough land for the new gates and would dedicate the rest to the safety academy. The proposal also includes an existing nesting site for California least terns, a water quality laboratory, to be operated jointly by the city and San Diego State University, and a new hotel.

"It's not over," Wear cautioned after the 10-9 vote in favor of his plan. The committee's role is purely advisory, with the final decision to be made by the City Council and approved by the Secretary of the Navy. Port Commissioner Mike McDade described the Wear proposal as "totally unacceptable," and the Port is expected to lobby heavily for a greater share of the property.

Citizens who spoke at the meeting included Peninsula residents Karel Ryan, who argued for the public safety academy and presented a stack of signed petitions, and Nancy Palmtag, who pointed out that the noise impact of the proposed airport expansion has not been studied. Keith Webb, chairman of the Midway Community Planning Board, presented his group's position in favor of the

safety academy.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts spoke in favor of the academy or a compromise that would include it, stating that "this (public safety academy) was the single best idea presented for the use of NTC." Darren Pudgill, an aide to County Supervisor Greg Cox, who was in Washington, said that Cox also favors the public safety academy or a workable compromise.

### Police Beat

The following information was compiled using reports filed by San Diego police officers.

- A suspect was seen, prior to his alleged act of arson to a vehicle, parked in the parking lot of a business in the 3800 block of Rosecrans Street at 2:04 p.m. on April 20. The suspect used open flames to ignite combustibles in the vehicle.
- A car stereo, coat and camera were reportedly stolen from a 1985 Volkswagen Jetta parked in the 3500 block of Curlew Street between 11 p.m., April 22 and 11:30 a.m., April 23. The merchandise is valued at \$1100.
- A mountain bike was reportedly stolen from the sidewalk in front of the victim's residence in the 4800 block of Santa Cruz

Avenue between 6 and 6:05 p.m. on April 17. The bike is valued at \$399.

- A tool case, voltage meter, screwdriver and a cellular phone were reportedly stolen from a business in the 4000 block of Wallace Street between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on April 22. The merchandise is valued at \$1000.
- More than \$200 was reportedly stolen from a veterinarian clinic in the 2100 block of Catalina Boulevard when a suspect allegedly used a gun to threaten the owner of the business and demand the money at 4:35 p.m. on April 23.
- Two shirts and two shorts were reportedly stolen from a department store in the 3300 block of Sports Arena Boulevard at 1:40 p.m. on April 23. The suspect allegedly used a purse to conceal the items. The merchandise is valued at \$50.